

on November 13th, at the age of ninety-one. He will be missed greatly by his surviving family and friends, and by the Nation he so dutifully served. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of this courageous man.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in recognition of the first of December as World Aids Day, I want to take a moment to highlight the gravity of the HIV/AIDS situation, particularly for the African American community. We have heard statistic after statistic; HIV/AIDS is a formidable problem across the country in all communities. Indeed, an article in the New York Times this week noted that new HIV/AIDS case estimates are actually 50 percent higher than health experts had believed. This is unacceptable. America has within it the resources to address this issue; our political leadership must take action to do so.

The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, reported that approximately 1,000,000 Americans were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2003, roughly 25 percent of whom were undiagnosed and unaware of their HIV infection. Furthermore, this infection has started to increase among children at a drastic rate. Through 2005, there have been an estimated 9,000 AIDS cases reported for children under the age of 13. HIV/AIDS is becoming a problem earlier and earlier for more and more Americans.

It is very clear that HIV/AIDS is indeed an emergency situation in the African American community. According to the CDC, African Americans make up 13 percent of the Nation's population but account for 49 percent of the estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the epidemic began. In addition, African American children make up approximately 63 percent of the estimated HIV/AIDS cases through 2005. Not only are African Americans more likely to get AIDS, they are more likely to die from it, with more than half of all AIDS-related deaths being among African Americans. Through science, research, and medical advancements, there are better treatments, prevention efforts, and a decline in AIDS diagnoses and deaths, except for African Americans.

HIV/AIDS is plaguing and destroying African American communities. Yet, I wonder how many of my colleagues or how many Americans, including African Americans, know how devastating and destructive this disease is on one population in our country. It leads to the questions: Why is more not being done? Why has this not been considered a national public health emergency? With more African American males in prison, more African American females living and dying with HIV/AIDS, what is to happen to the African American children and families?

I commend all of those individuals in my community who have pledged to do what they can. I, myself, have been publicly tested 3 times to help convince individuals to be tested, to do the things that are necessary. However, my fellow colleagues and I and all Americans

need to do much more about this problem. We all must get behind the World AIDS Day slogan: "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise." We must increase funding for treatment and prevention, not reduce it by 19 percent as this administration has done. We must invest in medical research and needle exchange programs—prevention and treatment. The more engaged we are and the stronger determination we have will lead to the decrease in AIDS cases across the United States in all communities.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE GALLAGHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Lawrence Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher unfortunately passed away this past Thursday at the age of 68. Larry lived his life with a strong commitment to his family and to his community and is certainly most deserving of this honor.

Born in Boston, he enlisted in the United States Air Force shortly after finishing high school and was proud to serve his country with courage and distinction. At the end of his service, Larry settled in Riverside, California where he began his career in law enforcement eventually becoming the Deputy Sheriff. With a passion to serve the public, Mr. Gallagher went on to become Director of Criminal Justice Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments.

Throughout his life, he remained involved in his community by being a member of the Rotary Club, volunteering at the local YMCA, and serving on the board of directors at the South Bay Youth and Family Center. A devoted family man; he will be deeply missed by his wife, Linda; his children Donald, Dennis, Denny, and Holly; and his seven grandchildren.

Larry had a passion for water resources that led him to serve with a number of California water authorities such as: the Kern County Water Agency, the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Association of California Water Agencies. For years, I was proud to work with Larry on the water issues facing our Valley and I was fortunate enough to call him a friend. He kindly agreed to serve on the selection committee for the Jim Costa—Kern County Water Agency Water Resources Fellowship and I was grateful for his advice and wisdom.

Larry Gallagher was a man of great principle and integrity. He was my friend and I will miss him a great deal. He conducted his life with a reverence for humanity and with the philosophy of ensuring that our future generation's quality of life was protected and assured. It is with great pride that I honor him for all that he did on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley and for California.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN CALDWELL'S SERVICE TO SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to a constituent of mine, Mrs. Ann Caldwell, and her decades of service to Southern Union State Community College in Wadley, Alabama.

For the past 33 years, Mrs. Caldwell has served the Southern Union music department, during which time she earned many noteworthy accomplishments, including a standing invitation at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She is well known across East Alabama for her musical and leadership abilities, and she is frequently praised for directing highly successful and entertaining musical performances for the community each year. In addition to her service on campus, Mrs. Caldwell is an active member of her community and church.

I thank Mrs. Caldwell for her decades of academic and community service, and I wish her and her family all the best in the future.

HONORING JOHN R. SHAFER OF ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John R. Shafer on the occasion of his receiving the 3rd Annual Making a Difference Award from the non-profit organization Healthy Moms and Babies. This award is being presented in recognition for his outstanding work in support of making healthcare accessible to all in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Shafer has always had a strong commitment to public service. At age 18 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and flew combat missions over occupied Europe as a B-24 bomber pilot. After a long career in corporate textbook publishing, he came to the Napa Valley, as so many before him, looking for a new place to call home. John purchased a vineyard site in an area known as Stag's Leap. Although it had been idle for several years, he had a vision that it could grow to become one of the country's premier wineries. The following year, he moved his family to California to make this vision a reality.

Since then, Shafer Vineyards has grown into a world class winery and has done so while practicing and promoting sustainable, earth-friendly agriculture. Throughout his success in the wine industry Mr. Shafer has remained committed to serving his community. In addition to being a former president of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association and a former member of the board of the Napa Valley Vintners Association, Mr. Shafer has also been active with the board of directors of the Community Health Clinic Ole since 1990. Clinic Ole is dedicated to bringing the highest quality medical and dental services to the underserved communities in Napa County and